

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 136154  
ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM: EREHFELD  
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM: EREHFELD  
PER - MR. MELENCAMP

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O 301553Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 136154

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO/IS REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF ELDON SMITH

REF: USNATO 3702

1. ASYG WALSH DISCUSSED WITH ERIC REHFELD, EUR/RPM, ON MAY 29 HIS REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF ELDON SMITH WHICH ACCORDING TO INFORMATION GIVEN TO WALSH BY JAMES VILLALOBOS, NATO DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL,

HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT. WALSH EXPLAINED IN DETAIL REASONS FOR RENEWED REQUEST FOR EXTENSION, PRIMARILY THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT THERE WILL BE AN INFRASTRUCTURE OR DEPUTY INFRASTRUCTURE CONTROLLER AFTER AUGUST. HE EXPLAINED THAT BOTH INCUMBENTS WERE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE BY THEN.

2. CONVERSATION WITH MRS. COUSINS, USNATO ON MAY 30 CONFIRMED THAT NATO REQUEST HAD APPARENTLY NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY MISSION, BUT THAT SMITH NEEDS ON IMMEDIATE UNCLASSIFIED

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REPLY BECAUSE LEASE ON HIS HOUSE MUST BE RENEWED TOMORROW IF HE IS EXTENDED.

3. PLEASE INFORM NATO THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM TO INSURE THAT WILDS WILL REPORT FOR DUTY BEFORE SMITH IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE. WITH NOMINATIONS CLOSING ON JUNE 16, WE ASSUME THAT WILDS WILL HAVE HIS NATO

INTERVIEW A FEW DAYS LATER. WE HOPE THAT NATO CAN DECIDE TO ACCEPT HIM LATE IN JUNE OR EARLY IN JULY. FYI. WILDS BEING ASSIGNED TO EUR OVERCOMPLEMENT IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS NATO ASSIGNMENT. HE WILL BEGIN HOME LEAVE ON/ABOUT JULY 12, AND WE EXPECT THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO REPORT TO NATO IN AUGUST. END FYI.

4. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND REASONS OUTLINED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT, WE CANNOT AGREE AND DO NOT SEE THE NEED FOR EXTENSION OF ELDON SMITH. FURTHERMORE, AN EXTENSION WOULD MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT MR. WILDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR ASSIGNMENT TO NATO. AS MISSION IS AWARE, WE CONSIDER WILDS AN OUTSTANDING CANDIDATE, AND CONSIDER IT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT US CONTINUE TO FILL THIS IMPORTANT NATO POSITION.

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